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Many Americans say their household expenses are outpacing earnings this year, AP-NORC poll shows

By CORA LEWIS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — About 2 in 3 Americans say their household expenses have risen over the last year, but only about 1 in 4 say their income has increased in the same period, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

As household expenses outpace earnings, many are expressing concern about their financial futures. What's more, for most Americans, household debt has either risen in the last year or has not gone away.

Steve Shapiro, 61, who works as an audio engineer in Pittsburgh, said he'd been spending about \$100 a week on groceries prior to this past year, but that he's now shelling out closer to \$200.

"My income has stayed the same," he said. "The economy is good on paper, but I'm not doing great."



Credit cards as seen July 1, 2021, in Orlando, Fla.

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Associated Press
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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

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SUNDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm -

MONDAY
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

TUESDAY
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FRIDAY
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
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SATURDAY
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Many Americans say their household expenses are outpacing earnings this year, AP-NORC poll shows

Continued from Front

About 8 in 10 Americans say their overall household debt is higher or about the same as it was a year ago. About half say they currently have credit card debt, 4 in 10 are dealing with auto loans, and about 1 in 4 have medical debt. Just 15% say their household savings have increased over the last year. Tracy Gonzales, 36, who works as a sub-contractor in construction in San Antonio, Texas, has several thousand dollars of medical debt from an emergency room visit for what she thought was a bad headache but turned out to be a tooth infection. "They'll treat you, but the bills are crazy," she said. Gonzales said she's tried to avoid seeking medical treatment because of the costs.

Relatively few Americans say they're very or extremely confident that they could pay an unexpected medical expense (26%) or have enough money for retirement (18%). Only about one-third are extremely or very confident their current financial situation will allow them to keep up with expenses, though an additional 42% say they're somewhat confident.

"I've been looking forward to retirement my entire life. Recently I realized it's just not going to happen," said



A shopper peruses cheese offerings at a Target store on Oct. 4, 2023, in Sheridan, Colo.

Associated Press

Shapiro, of Pittsburgh, adding that his wife's \$30,000 or so of student debt is a financial factor for his household. The couple had hoped to sell their house and move this past year, but decided instead to hold on to their mortgage rate of 3.4%, rather than facing a higher rate. (The current average long-term mortgage rate reached 7.79% this month.) About 3 in 10 Americans say they've foregone a major purchase because of higher interest rates in the last year.

Nearly 1 in 4 U.S. adults have student debt, with the pandemic-era payment pause on federal loans ending this month, contributing to the crunch.

Will Clouse, 77, of Westlake, Ohio, said inflation is his biggest concern, as he lives on a fixed income in his retirement.

"A box of movie candy — Sno-Caps — that used to cost 99 cents is now a dollar fifty at the grocery store," he said. "That's a 50% increase in price. Somebody's taking

advantage of somebody." Yet even as Americans have expressed gloomy sentiments about the economy, many have continued spending, which drove a strong quarter of growth from July through September, when the economy expanded at an annual pace of 4.9%.

Even so, wages and salaries have largely trailed inflation since the pandemic, leaving most households worse off, though economists debate which measures are

the best to use. In the past 12 months, however, average hourly pay has started to pull ahead of prices, rising 0.5% faster.

Americans are generally split on whether the Republicans (29%) or the Democrats (25%) are better suited to handle the issue of inflation in the U.S. Three in 10 say they trust neither party to address it.

Geri Putnam, 85, of Thomson, Georgia, said she's been following the ongoing auto workers strikes with sympathy for the workers' asks.

"I don't think it's out of line, what they're asking for, when you see what CEOs are making," she said. "I think things have gotten out of control."

When you can walk into a store and see the next day, across the board, a dollar increase — that's a little strange. I understand supply and demand, the cost of shipping, et cetera. But it seems to me everyone's looking at their bottom lines."

Putnam also said she sees her six children struggling financially more than her generation did.

"They all have jobs and have never been without them," she said. "They're achievers, but I think at least two or three of them will never be able to buy a home." □



The U.S. Treasury Department building is shown at dusk in Washington on June 6, 2019.

Associated Press

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press
LONDON (AP) — The United

States on Friday expanded its effort to cut off funding for Hamas, announcing a

U.S. expands its effort to cut off funding for Hamas

second round of sanctions against people and organizations linked to the group since it launched an attack on Israel that killed more than 1,400 people.

The new sanctions highlight Iran's role in providing financial, logistical and operational support to Hamas, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control said in a statement. They include a Hamas representative in Iran and members of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary

Guard. The sanctions were announced as Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo travelled to London to shore up support from Britain, one of America's closest allies, for the drive to squeeze off funding for Hamas, which both countries consider a terrorist organization.

"Today's action underscores the United States' commitment to dismantling Hamas's funding networks by deploying our counter-terrorism sanctions authori-

ties and working with our global partners to deny Hamas the ability to exploit the international financial system," Adeyemo said.

Among those targeted are Khaled Qaddoumi, described as a liaison between Hamas and the Iranian government; and Ali Morshed Shirazi and Mostafa Mohammad Khani, officials in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Qods Force who are accused of training and assisting Hamas fighters. □

Donald Trump is set to testify Nov. 6 in civil fraud trial

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump is set to testify Nov. 6 at his New York civil fraud trial, following his three eldest children to the witness stand in a case that threatens to disrupt their family's real estate empire, state lawyers said Friday.

It was already expected that the former president and sons Donald Jr. and Eric would testify. The timing became clear Friday, after Judge Arthur Engoron ruled that daughter Ivanka Trump also must appear, rejecting her bid to avoid testifying.

The schedule sets up a blockbuster stretch in the trial of New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit. She alleges that the former president, now the Republican front-runner for 2024, overstated his wealth for years on financial statements that were given to banks, insurers and others to help secure loans and deals.

Trump denies any wrongdoing and has called the trial a politically motivated sham. The case could strip Trump of some of his corporate holdings and marquee properties such as Trump Tower. James and Engoron are Democrats.

Donald Trump and the two sons are defendants in the lawsuit, but the state is initially calling them to the stand before the defense begins its case. The defense can then call them again.

In a surprise preview, Donald Trump ended up briefly testifying Wednesday to answer Engoron's questions about whether an out-of-court comment was aimed at his law clerk. The judge had earlier barred participants in the trial from talking publicly about court staffers.

Trump said his remark wasn't about the clerk; Engoron called that testimony "not credible" and fined Trump \$10,000, on top of a \$5,000 fine imposed days earlier over an online post about the clerk. Trump's



Former President Donald Trump arrives at the courtroom for his civil business fraud trial at New York Supreme Court, Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

lawyers paid both fines on his behalf but still might appeal them, according to a court filing Friday.

Donald Trump Jr. is now set to testify next Wednesday, brother Eric on Thursday and sister Ivanka on Nov. 3, though her lawyers may appeal to try to block her testimony.

An appeals court dismissed her as a defendant in the lawsuit in June, saying the claims against her were too old. Ivanka Trump announced in January 2017, ahead of her father's inauguration, that she was stepping away from her job as an executive vice president at the family company, the Trump Organization. She soon became an unpaid senior adviser in the Trump White House. After her father's term ended, she moved to Florida.

Her lawyer, Bennet Minkowitz, told the judge Friday that state lawyers "just don't have jurisdiction over her." One of Donald Trump's attorneys, Christopher Kise, maintained that state lawyers "just want another free-for-all on another of President Trump's children."

"The idea that somehow Ms. Trump is under the control of the Trump Organization or any of the defendants, her father anyone

who has raised a daughter past the age of 13 knows that they're not under their control," Kise said.

However, the state's lawyers argued that Ivanka Trump was a key participant in some events discussed in the case and remains financially and professionally intertwined with the family business and its leaders.

Engoron sided with the state, citing documents showing that Ivanka Trump continued to have ties to some businesses in New York and still owns Manhattan apartments.

"Ms. Trump has clearly availed herself of the privilege of doing business in New York," Engoron said. □

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The White House and Google launch a new virtual tour with audio captions, Spanish translation

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Can't come to Washington? Couldn't get a ticket to tour the White House? Don't worry.

The White House, Google Maps and Google Arts & Culture launched a new virtual tour of the famous mansion on Friday, which is also National Civics Day. With a computer or smartphone, users will be able to spend time zooming in on all of the rooms that they would have seen had they been able to go on an in-person tour.

The updated virtual tour is part of a desire by first lady Jill Biden to make the White House accessible to as many people as possible. Biden, a longtime community college professor, hopes teachers use it to educate students about the White House and its history, said Elizabeth Alexander, her spokesperson.

"Not everyone can make the trip to Washington, D.C., to tour the White House, so she's bringing the White House to them," Alexander said.

Biden traveled to Philadelphia on Friday for a National Civics Day event hosted



First Lady Jill Biden attends an event to celebrate National Civics Day with the launch of Well Versed, an animated musical series that aims to help teach kids about democracy and the U.S. Bill of Rights Friday, Oct. 27, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

by Nickelodeon, ATTN: and iCivics, where they announced "Well Versed," a new short-form series that uses animation and music to help teach children about democracy and the Bill of Rights.

She talked about the Constitutional Convention held at Philadelphia's Independence Hall in 1787, where the founders of the United

States created a government in which power rested with the people, not with kings and queens.

"That's still how our country works, and it's one of the things that make it so special," Biden said. "And when we understand civics, how our government works and how to hold it accountable, we are able to help each other and

make our country the best it can be."

The virtual tour is the first Google virtual tour of the White House to include audio captions for people with disabilities. The captions are narrated by White House social secretary Carlos Elizondo and pop up on the screen to offer viewers historical information on each of the rooms.

It is also Google's first virtual tour of the White House to have Spanish translation, and feature the official portraits of former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama.

The tour opens with a brief video of President Joe Biden and the first lady welcoming visitors, the same message that plays at the White House Visitors Center for those who visit in person. Google Street View technology was used to capture the imagery, starting at the East Wing Entrance and moving through all rooms on the public tour route, including the library, the China Room, the Green, Blue and Red rooms, the East Room and the State Dining Room.

The tour was created using Google Arts & Culture's storytelling tool.

Ben Gomes, senior vice president of learning and sustainability at Google, said the mission of its arts and culture division is to open the world's culture to people everywhere.

The tour is available on the White House website, as well as on Google Maps and the Google Arts & Culture page. □

New York City sets up office to give migrants one-way tickets out of town

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York City is intensifying efforts to transport migrants out of the city as its shelter system reaches capacity, setting up a dedicated office to provide asylum-seekers with free, one-way tickets to anywhere in the world.

City Hall confirmed the establishment of a new "reticketing center" in Manhattan as its latest bid to ease pressure on its shelters and finances following the arrival of more than 130,000 asylum-seekers

since last year.

Mayor Eric Adams, a Democrat, has described the situation as a crisis and has begun to warn that shelters are so full that migrants will soon be forced onto the street as winter approaches.

"I cannot say this enough. You know, we are out of the room," he told reporters this week. "And it's not 'if' people will be sleeping on the streets, it's when. We are at full capacity."

The city's plan to offer migrants transportation builds upon previous efforts to send the asylum-seekers

elsewhere, though the establishment of the dedicated reticketing center marks a renewed emphasis on the strategy.

The city has stressed that the offer for travel is voluntary. The mayor's office has recently limited adult migrants to 30 days in city shelters and 60 days for migrant families with children. Migrants, most of whom arrive without the legal ability to work, can reapply for housing if they are unable to find a new place to live. A spokeswoman for Adams said about 20,000 people have received either 30- or

60-day notices. Less than 20% of people who have

exceeded the limits are still in city shelters, she said. □



New York City Mayor Eric Adams speaks in New York's Times Square during a news conference on Dec. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

U.N. General Assembly calls for 'humanitarian truce' in Gaza

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.N. General Assembly approved a nonbinding resolution Friday calling for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza leading to a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers.

It was the first U.N. response to Hamas' surprise Oct. 7 attacks on Israel and Israel's ongoing military response and vow to obliterate Hamas.

The 193-member world body adopted the resolution by a vote of 120-14 with 45 abstentions after rejecting a Canadian amendment backed by the United States to unequivocally condemn the Oct. 7 "terrorist attacks" by Hamas and demand the immediate release of hostages taken by Hamas.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

UNITED NATIONS (AP) The U.N. General Assembly scheduled a vote Friday on a nonbinding resolution calling for a "humanitarian truce" in Gaza leading to a cessation of hostilities between Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers.

Jordan's U.N. Ambassador Mahmoud Hmoud, speaking on behalf of the U.N.'s 22-nation Arab group,



Egypt's United Nations Ambassador Osama Abdel Khalek address the United Nations General Assembly on Friday, Oct. 27, 2023 at U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press

which drafted the resolution, called for an afternoon vote before all 112 speakers get to the assembly's rostrum, because of the urgency of taking action.

The Arab group is seeking action by the 193-member world body because of the failure of the more powerful 15-member Security Council to agree on a resolution after four attempts.

Unlike the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the General Assembly so the resolution is certain to be adopted. While council resolutions are legally bind-

ing, assembly resolutions are not, but they do serve as a barometer of world opinion.

It would be the first response from the United Nations to Hamas' surprise Oct. 7 attacks on Israel and Israel's ongoing military response and vow to obliterate Hamas. While the Hamas attacks killed some 1,400 Israelis, more than 7,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory airstrikes, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The assembly's emergency special session on Israeli actions, which began

Wednesday, continued Friday with U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield echoing Israel's envoy in calling the resolution to be voted on "outrageous" for never mentioning Hamas and saying it is "detrimental" to the vision of a two-state solution.

She said the United States backed a Canadian amendment, which will be voted on first, that would unequivocally reject and condemn the Oct. 7 "terrorist attacks" by Hamas and demand the immediate and unconditional release of hostages taken by

Hamas. For adoption, the amendment must be approved by two-thirds of assembly members.

Thomas-Greenfield called it "a perilous moment for Israelis and Palestinians," stressing that there is no justification for Hamas "terror," that Palestinians are being used as human shields and that "the lives of innocent Palestinians must be protected."

Oman, speaking on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council, condemned Israel's "siege" of Gaza, starvation of its population and collective punishment of Palestinians. But it said the Palestinians won't be deterred from demanding their "legitimate inalienable rights, chief among them the right to self-determination and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital." In addition to calling for "an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities," the proposed resolution demands that all parties immediately comply with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law requiring protection of civilians and the schools, hospitals and other infrastructure critical for their survival. □

A blast kills at least 4 people and injures others in a Shiite neighborhood of the Afghan capital



An Afghan man removes the burnt shoes in the site of an explosion in a sports club, in the west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— The death toll from an explosion in a mostly Shiite Muslim neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital increased to four, with seven people critically injured, a police spokesperson said Friday.

The cause of the Thursday evening blast at a boxing club in Kabul is still not known. Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the city's police chief, said the investigation into the blast is ongoing. He initially reported that two people died and nine were injured.

Video taken after the explosion shows part of a building with its windows blown out, flames billowing inside. Shattered glass and other debris are strewn across the street below.

The scale of the damage was clearer Friday morning. There were craters in the ground and most of the club's interior has been gutted. Workers picked their way through boxing gloves and gym equipment on the blood-splattered floor. Eyewitness Sultan Ali Amini said that at least six people died and more than 15

were injured. "As you see, the walls are destroyed and all the glass and metal are broken," he said.

The reason for the lower death toll provided by the Taliban was not immediately clear. In the past, they have at times been slow to confirm casualty figures in the aftermath of attacks.

The Dashti Barchi area of Kabul has been targeted in the past by the Islamic State group affiliate in the country, which has carried out major, horrific assaults on schools, hospitals and mosques. □

El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele registers for 2024 reelection

By MARCOS ALEMÁN

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele registered as his party's candidate to seek re-election in the country's presidential vote next year, a decision already raising eyebrows Friday because the constitution prohibits it. Bukele and his running mate, current vice president Félix Ulloa, were the last to register before the deadline at midnight Thursday. In typical Bukele fashion, the last-minute registration became a spectacle, coming amid rumors the president had been hospitalized. Instead, he exited electoral offices to a crowd of cheering supporters.

"We are ready to change whatever we have to change to be able to insert ourselves even more in the community of nations, but always respecting our sovereignty and independence," said Bukele, speaking through a megaphone.

El Salvador's Constitution prohibits reelection, but in 2021, the country's Supreme Court of Justice ruled that one of its articles allows the president who serves a five-year term to



Members of the presidential security command surround El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele, center, during their speech to supporters in San Salvador, El Salvador, Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

run for reelection once. Bukele announced he would seek a second term with the New Ideas Party a year later.

Thousands of Bukele's supporters had gathered early Friday in front of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal and did not leave until the president came out to shake their hands, amid shouts of "Reelection, reelection" and "Nayib, my friend, the people are with

you." U.S. Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brian A. Nichols, who was visiting El Salvador, took to a local television talk show Friday morning to raise questions about Bukele's decision, while insisting it is not for other countries to decide. "There has to be a broad debate about the legality and legitimacy of the election, but it is a debate for Salvadorans," said Nichols,

ahead of a meeting with Bukele.

Salvadorans "will have the opportunity to express their will at the polls and they can decide whether they agree or disagree with that process," he told reporters afterward.

According to several polls, Bukele would win the reelection by a wide margin. He has maintained soaring popularity numbers for his heavy-handed crackdown

on the country's powerful street gangs.

Bukele, who pointed out that some "developed countries" might disagree with his decision to run, insisted, "They are not the ones who will decide, but the Salvadoran people. The Salvadoran people will decide if they want to continue building this new El Salvador, or if they want to return to that country that was known for gangs and death."

Ulloa recently explained that once Bukele's candidacy is made official, the president would have to ask Congress for permission to leave office before Dec. 1, six months before the beginning of the new presidential term. Congress would then elect an interim replacement.

Constitutional lawyers, like Abraham Abrego with the human rights organization Cristosal, argue that the president's reelection bid is illegal. "Immediate reelection is expressly prohibited by six constitutional articles, as well as the spirit of the 1983 Constitution, which established a five-year presidential term without the possibility of immediate reelection," said Abrego. □

Malaysia picks powerful ruler of Johor state as country's new king under rotation system

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's royal families have elected the powerful and wealthy ruler of southern Johor state as the country's new king under a unique rotating monarchy system, the palace said Friday.

Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, 64, will ascend to the throne on Jan. 31 for a five-year term, the palace said in a statement. His election had been widely expected, as the ruler of Johor state bordering Singapore was next in line based on a rotation order established among the country's nine state rulers.

He succeeds incumbent Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ah-

mad Shah of central Pahang, who presided over a tumultuous period that

included COVID-19 lockdowns and political instability that has seen four prime

ministers since 2018 general elections.

Nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns serving as Malaysia's king for five-year terms under the world's only such system, which has been maintained since the country's independence from Britain in 1957.

Known as the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, or He Who is Made Lord, Malaysia's king plays a largely ceremonial role, since administrative power is vested in the prime minister and Parliament. But the monarch is highly regarded as the guardian of Islam and Malay tradition, particularly among the ethnic Malay Muslim majority. Despite the ceremonial na-



Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor, second right, walks with Malaysia's King Sultan Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, second left, after the election for the next Malaysian king at the National Palace in Kuala Lumpur Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

ture of the post, the king has become more active in politics in recent years.

Current King Sultan Abdullah had to intervene in the past few years to decide who became prime minister. This included naming Anwar Ibrahim as prime minister after 2018 general elections led to a hung parliament. Sultan Ibrahim, a ruler who takes annual road trips to meet people in his state, has expressed his readiness to be king.

"It is not a promotion. It is a responsibility I am prepared to undertake," he told national Bernama news agency last month. "The (people) will always come first." □

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.



Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and



Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

ives)
*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and ol-

ives). Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

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A Week of Spine-Tingling Halloween Fun at Paseo Herencia – Shopping, Dining & Entertainment Center

Oranjestad – Get ready for a weekend of Halloween celebration like no other as Paseo Herencia, unveils its "Mall-O-Ween" extravaganza. With a spellbinding lineup of events, thrilling contests, and ghoulish delights, Paseo Herencia promises a Halloween experience that will cast a spell on your whole family.

Spooky Bar Crawl – October 26 – 31

Experience the eerie delights of limited-time spooky drinks at participating bars and restaurants,

each crafting spine-tingling drinks to satisfy your darkest cravings.

Raise a toast to the season and embark on a haunting journey to explore our diverse range of Halloween Drinks.

Participating Bars & Restaurants are Fusion Cuisine with their adorable Baby Yoda Drink for only \$5, Sexy Shrimps with their Sexy Poison at \$5, Black Magic Margarita at Frenchie's Café for \$6, Gravedigger Rum Punch at TGI Fridays for \$5 and the Moody Champagne at Drunk's Denial for \$5.



Haunted House & Elevator Experience - October 27 – 31

Brace yourself for a "Fright Night" starting Friday, October 27th that promises shivers down your spine. Dive into the Haunted House & Elevator experience and enjoy thrilling screenings of the bone-chilling movie, "Five Nights at Freddy's." The terror begins at 7 pm as you dare to enter the unknown.

Halloween Games & Dance Show and Trick or Treat Event - October 29:

As Halloween night approaches, "Super Spooktacular Sunday" on October 29th takes center stage. Bring the whole family for live shows, thrilling contests, and a spine-tingling Trick or Treat event starting at 6pm. Prizes await the best costumes in various categories, while kids can enjoy a corner filled with engaging activities and a thrilling painting competition.

Hocus Pocus Photo Scavenger Hunt – October 28 – 31

Concluding the Mall-O-Ween extravaganza is "Terrifying Tuesday" on October 31st. Experience the



last night of the Haunted Elevator and partake in the "Hocus Pocus Photo Scavenger Hunt," commencing at 6 pm. The hunt promises a bewitching end to this captivating week.

Join us for a week of chills, thrills, and Halloween delights that are sure to enchant and captivate. Paseo Herencia welcomes visitors to embrace the magic of Mall-O-Ween, a celebration of all things spooky, mysterious, and utterly unforgettable. For more information and event details, visit paseoherencia.com. □

Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By

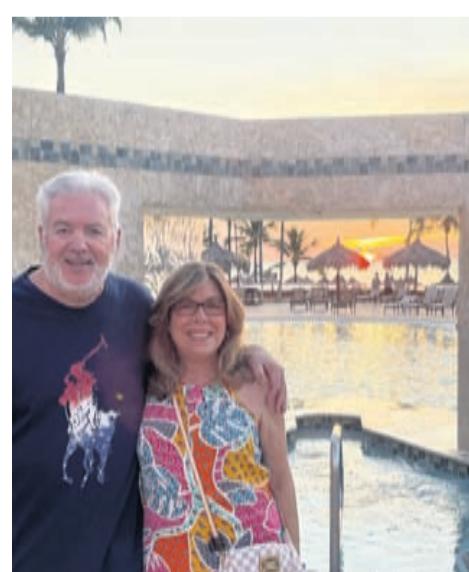
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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from **Ellen & Bruce Levy from Voorhees, NJ, USA.**

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is paradise! This is our 30th year at Playa Linda, our home away from home."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



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Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamano-ta Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park. The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the govern-



ment decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this

resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it

has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region.

Blackstone Beach

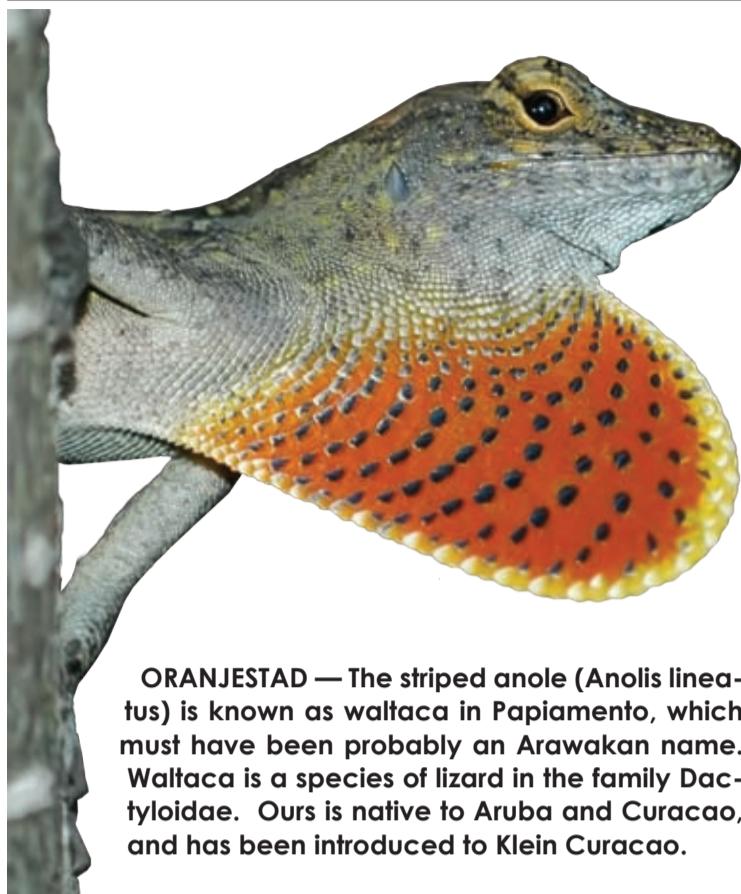
So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andi-

curi Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



ORANJESTAD — The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) is known as *waltaca* in Papiamento, which must have been probably an Arawakan name. *Waltaca* is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae. Ours is native to Aruba and Curacao, and has been introduced to Klein Curacao.

Anolis lineatus is from South America origin and belongs to the so-called group *Anolis nitens*. *Anolis nitens* is a strain from Venezuela and the Guyanas, which contains some subspecies. English denomination: Anole stripes.

Waltacas are territorial animals, they have their own zone that they guard from other *waltacas* and here in our garden you can find them guarding their favorite tree trunk or spot on a rock. They even have a favorite chair when it's time to catch a fly. As you can see in the photo, it blends in perfectly with the patterns of the chair fabric. Great camouflage, color and tone changing abilities can be useful when hunting and in the delicate balance between communication, protection or thermoregulation.

It is generally common in the more densely vegetated part of our garden since it is less dry and shady at Etnia

LXXIII - 73: Our 'waltaca'



Nativa. You will observe that it is a small agile arboreal lizard that usually sits with its head down on the trunk and threaten to "Double chin" any possible intruders. Males have a larger "dewlap" than females. The "double chin" is orange with black in the throat stripe and a thin yellow border on the outer edge.

In Aruba *waltacas* are usually found in dry tropical shrub land at all elevations in its range, but is uncommon in habitats without larger trees. It can often be seen on rocks, the walls of buildings or tree trunks; at various heights but often relatively close to the ground.

Males reach about 7–7.5 cm (2.8–3.0 in) in snout-to-vent length and the females about 6 cm (2.4 in).

In its overall *waltacas* are light brownish with a dark-

edged pale lateral stripe on each side, and typically several light bars on the body and tail. It has an orange-yellow dewlap with a blackish spot; the dewlap is significantly larger in males than in females. It is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, being deeper orange on one side and yellower on the other. In almost three-quarter of all individuals the left side is the most yellow. The color difference between the two sides is indistinct in only a minority of the females. They are light gray at the bottom. Just like iguanas they can also change color, but the color only varies with light darker. When they're scared or excited, they can suddenly get a lot darker. Striped pattern is sharpest in the Aruba shape of *Anolis lineatus* border.□

To get to know more regarding Aruba's and its origins, its animals culture etc. We highly recommend you to book your participation. Living our cultural encounter session is mind opening and entertaining curious hearts for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com.

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Article by: Etnia Nativia

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology

and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is an adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect



their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for wa-

ter birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Frontiers-

1 Surrender man
5 Recipe Crockett
instruction 44 Casual
9 Flatten tops
10 Sharpens12 Even a DOWN
little13 Muscat native
native14 It's earlier on school
nights

16 Way off 4 Oval's

17 Magnetite, e.g.

18 Hobby

20 Salad bar item

22 Cart pullers

23 Critter in a way

25 Skilled

28 Writer Hardy

32 4:00, perhaps

34 Museum focus

35 Emeril catchword

36 Joplin field

38 Baja buddy

40 Belly button type

41 Mortise's mate

42 Spot seller, for short



Yesterday's answer



10-28

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-28 CRYPTOQUOTE

U 'VV QLPZ KGTSUMR IVTHA

KYGM LYGF CTAG T BTSAGS

HPVPS. — KGBMGQBTF TBBTCQ.

"LYG TBBTCQ XTCUVF"
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT ANYTHING NICE TO SAY ABOUT ANYBODY, COME SIT NEXT TO ME. — ALICE ROOSEVELT LONGWORTH

Haslams say Warren Buffett's Berkshire wants to take money out of their pockets in truck stop deal



Berkshire Hathaway Chairman and CEO Warren Buffett smiles during an interview, May 7, 2018, in Omaha, Neb.

Associated Press

By JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The billionaire Haslam family says in a lawsuit that Warren Buffett and Berkshire Hathaway are trying to artificially depress the price the company is obligated to pay for the family's remaining 20% stake in the Pilot Travel Centers truck stop chain that Jim Haslam found. Berkshire has paid

tificially depress the price

the company is obligated to pay for the family's remaining 20% stake in the Pilot Travel Centers truck stop chain that Jim Haslam found. Berkshire has paid

nearly \$11 billion since 2017 for the first 80% of Pilot.

Berkshire changed the accounting practices at Pilot this year after it acquired control of the company. The lawsuit that was unsealed Thursday said that change is artificially depressing Pilot's reported earnings, which are used to set the purchase price Berkshire agreed to pay in 2017. "Berkshire is intent on using the accounting change to justify grossly underpaying Pilot (the Haslam family) for its 20% interest," the lawsuit said. The Haslam family, which includes Cleveland Browns owner Jimmy Haslam and former Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, declined to comment beyond the lawsuit. □

Abercrombie & Fitch slapped with lawsuit alleging sexual abuse of its male models under former CEO

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A former model for Abercrombie



In this May 22, 2017, file photo, a store window reflects a street scene at an Abercrombie & Fitch store on New York's Fifth Avenue.

Associated Press

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& Fitch on Friday sued the fashion retailer, alleging it allowed its former CEO Mike Jeffries to run a sex-trafficking organization during his 22-year tenure. Jeffries, who left Abercrombie in 2014, converted the chain from an struggling retailer of hunting apparel to a seller of must-have teen clothing. But he faced criticism for the company's sexualized marketing, including billboards and beefy models that alienated potential customers who didn't fit into its image. The lawsuit comes after a BBC report earlier this month raised similar allegations against Jeffries and his partner Matthew Smith.

The lawsuit, filed by David Bradberry in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, alleges Jeffries had modeling scouts scouring the internet and elsewhere to identify attractive young men seeking to be the next face of Abercrombie. □

Twitter takeover: 1 year later, X struggles with misinformation, advertising and usage decline



A pile of characters removed from a sign on the Twitter headquarters building are seen in San Francisco, Monday, July 24, 2023.

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

One year ago, billionaire and new owner Elon Musk walked into Twitter's San Francisco headquarters with a white bathroom sink and a grin, fired its CEO and other top executives and began transforming the social media platform into what is now known as X. X looks and feels something like Twitter, but the more time you spend on it the clearer it becomes that it's merely an approximation. Musk has dismantled core features of what made Twitter, Twitter its name and blue bird logo, its verification system, its Trust and Safety advisory group. Not to mention content moderation and hate speech enforcement. He also fired, laid off or lost the majority of its workforce engineers who keep the site running, moderators who keep it from being overrun with hate, executives in charge of making rules and enforcing them. The result, long-term Twitter watchers say, has been the end of the platform's role as an imperfect but useful place to find out what's going on in the world. What X will become, and whether Musk can achieve his ambition of turning it into an "everything app" that everyone uses, remains as unclear as it was a year ago.

"Musk hasn't managed to make a single meaningful improvement to the platform and is no closer to his vision of an 'everything app,' than he was a year ago," said Insider Intelligence analyst Jasmine Enberg. "Instead, X has driven away users, advertisers, and now it has lost its primary value proposition in the social media world: Being a central hub for news." As one of the platform's most popular and prolific users even before he bought the company, Musk had a unique experience on Twitter that is markedly different from how regular users experience it. But many of the changes he's introduced

to X has been based on his own impressions of the site in fact, he even polled his millions of followers for advice on how to run it (they said he should step down). "Musk's treatment of the platform as a technology company that he could remake and his vision rather than a social network fueled by people and ad dollars has been the single largest cause of the demise of Twitter," Enberg said. The blue checkmarks that once signified that the person or institution behind an account was who they said they are a celebrity, athlete, journalist from global or local publication, a nonprofit agency now merely shows that some-

Associated Press

one pays \$8 a month for a subscription service that boosts their posts above un-checked users.

It's these paying accounts that have been found to spread misinformation on the platform that is often amplified by its algorithms. On Thursday, for instance, a new report from the left-leaning nonprofit Media Matters found that numerous blue-checked X accounts with tens of thousands of followers claimed that the mass shooting in Maine was a "false flag," planned by the government. Researchers also found such accounts spreading misinformation and propaganda about the Israel-Hamas war — so much so that the European Commission made a formal, legally binding request for information to X over its handling of hate speech, misinformation and violent terrorist content related to the war. □



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Editors

Pilar Flores

Richard Brooks

Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

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From Senators II to Rangers, this franchise is long overdue for a championship

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Columnist

They are The Franchise Formerly Known as the Second Version of the Washington Senators.

If there's ever been a team that's due for a championship way overdue, to put it bluntly it's the Texas Rangers.

From their beginnings as a hastily assembled replacement team for the nation's capital in 1961, through a whole lot of losing seasons and one excruciatingly close-but-no-cigar call, the Senators II-turned-Rangers have labored longer than any franchise in America's four major sports leagues without a championship on their resume.

"Really?" Texas outfielder Travis Jankowski asked incredulously on the eve of the Rangers' third World Series appearance, set to begin Friday night with Game 1 against the Arizona Diamondbacks. "When were the Padres founded?"

While it's true that San Diego has never won a World Series, the Padres didn't join the big leagues until the four-team expansion of 1969. At that point, the Rangers actually, they were still the Senators were already 8 years old.

"Oh, what's '72?" Jankowski inquired.

Well, that's the year the Senators, having abandoned Washington for the second time, moved to Arlington, Texas midway between Dallas and Fort Worth and became the Rangers.

"I had no idea," said Jankowski, who's hardly alone in being a bit vague on the Washington chapter of Rangers history.

"Some of it was pretty forgettable," quipped Dick Bosman, the starting pitcher for the franchise's final game as the Senators and first game as the Rangers. There's another ignominious tidbit we need to cover a bit more thoroughly.

Major League Baseball, as well as the National Football League, National Basketball Association and

National Hockey League, all have multiple franchises that have never won a

Rangers, leaving only the Cleveland Guardians. They haven't won the World Se-

man remembers getting the news on the 11 o'clock news after crawling into

to watch the closing innings, but the Senators never got a chance to record the 27th out.

"It was chaos," Bosman said. "They dug up the bases, they dug up home plate, they dug up the pitcher's mound. They took the numbers out of the scoreboard. There wasn't much left but the grass and they took some of that too."

The newly launched Rangers picked up where their downtrodden predecessors left off. They lost 205 games during their first two years in Arlington, where they played in a roofless, toaster-oven of a stadium that looked very much like the Double-A park it once was. The blistering summer heat forced the team to petition the league to play most of its games at night, even on Sundays.

"The Texas fans were wonderful. They were happy to have a major league club," Bosman said. "But we were bad. The only thing that was different was it said Rangers on front of the uniform instead of Senators."

It wasn't until 1996 that Texas finally made the playoffs for the first time, and it wouldn't be until 2010 that they advanced all the way to the World Series.

After a 4-1 loss to the Giants, the Rangers made it back-to-back Series appearances in 2011. Of course, that was the year they somehow lost to the St. Louis Cardinals, who were twice down to their final strike before improbably pulling out a seven-game victory.

Now, a dozen years after that heartache, the Rangers have another shot at a long-overdue title.

"That would mean the world," said Game 1 starter and Texas native Nathan Eovaldi. "To be able to say that you were part of the first one, you kind of set the foundation for the years to come and you don't really know what will happen after that."

It would undoubtedly be an improvement on what came before. □



Dave Nelson of the Washington Senators makes his way toward the dugout as fans begin to storm the field in Washington, Oct. 1, 1971.

Associated Press

championship.

None of them, however, has been around as long as the Senators-slash-Rangers. Sure, the NFL's Chargers, Bills and Oilers/Titans, who began play a year earlier in 1960, have never won a Super Bowl title. But all three claimed championships in their original home, the American Football League. Hey, what about the NFL Vikings, another expansion child of 1961? They're 0-for-4 in the Super Bowl, it's true, but the Senators were already 45 1/2 games out of first and winding down a 100-loss inaugural season by the time Minnesota hit the gridiron for the first time. Of the 30 MLB franchises, 23 have captured at least one championship since the ill-fated replacement Senators took the field a few months after the inauguration of President John F. Kennedy. Most notably, we've seen the Red Sox and Cubs erase their curses, the White Sox overcome the legacy of the Black Sox. Five of the title-less clubs were founded after the

ries since 1948, but at least they have a championship on their resume two of them, in fact, also winning it all in 1920.

For much of their existence, no matter the name, the Senators-Rangers have been an overlooked backwater on the MLB landscape.

They started out as the expansion successor to the first team known as the Senators, who moved to Minnesota to become the Twins in '61. During their 11 years in Washington, the Junior Senators had only one winning season and never drew 1 million fans.

"It was my first major league club, so it was pretty special," recalled Bosman, the winningest pitcher from the Senators years. "Unfortunately, the underlying attitude was always 'We're just not very good.' I hated that."

Throughout that final season in Washington, rumors swirled about the future of the franchise. Finally, with about three weeks to go in the regular season, Bos-

man remembers getting

the news on the 11 o'clock news after crawling into

bed.

"There it was on the screen," said Bosman, now 79 and retired in Florida.

"I remember looking at Pam (his wife) and saying, 'We're gone.'"

Maybe it wasn't all that surprising the final game ended in a riot, the Senators forfeiting a contest they were one out from winning when irate fans stormed the field at RFK Stadium to protest the impending move to the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

"Well, it's a strange way to lose a ball game," Washington play-by-play announcer Ron Menchine moaned over the radio airwaves, according to a recounting of that infamous night by the Society of Baseball Research.

"No one believed that there would not be major league baseball in the nation's capital. But it's sad to report there no longer is."

Bosman started that night, but was pulled after giving up the five runs in five innings. He returned to the dugout

NFL teams shouldn't let one game affect their trade deadline approach

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer
Buy. Sell. Stand pat.

Some NFL teams still have to make a decision on how to approach Tuesday's trade deadline. Contenders are buyers. Winning teams will try to add a player who can improve a playoff run. Pretenders are sellers. Teams at the bottom of the standings will move veterans or players in the final year of a contract to add draft picks and build for the future.

It's the in-between clubs, those in the middle of the pack, that have to figure out their plans. How those teams fare this weekend can impact their decision but one game shouldn't be the determining factor.

The Broncos are 2-5 and going nowhere in Sean Payton's first season as coach. They have several players who are potential trade candidates, including safety Justin Simmons and wide receivers Jerry Jeudy and Courtland Sutton.

Beating the Chiefs (6-1) on Sunday would be a major surprise. It still wouldn't change their direction. The playoffs are a longshot. They have to look at 2024 and beyond.

Payton made it clear the outcome of the game



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Romeo Doubs (87) is tackled by Denver Broncos safety Justin Simmons (31) during the first half of an NFL football game in Denver, Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

won't affect the team's approach at the trade deadline.

"Oh, no, no, no," he said. "We're focused on winning with this group and these guys here. We went through this in the offseason, too. It's the new cycle and it's part of the deal. No, not at all."

Three teams are 3-3 and seven teams are 3-4 so they're in the mix for a wild-card spot. But general

managers know they have to be realistic. It wouldn't be wise to trade a lot of draft capital for a player on the final year of a contract just to make the playoffs as the No. 7 seed.

Getting a player who is under contract for a couple more years makes more sense for some of these teams. The situation is different for each club.

The New York Jets (3-3) saw their Super Bowl aspirations

end quickly when Aaron Rodgers was injured in Week 1. But they've been competitive and have a talented roster. Adding the right player who can help the Jets end the NFL's longest current playoff drought makes more sense for New York than, for example, Washington (3-4). The Commanders aren't going to compete with Philadelphia (6-1) or Dallas (4-2) in the NFC East this sea-

son and are one of a slew of teams whose best hope is the final wild-card spot. They've got to figure out whether to deal rushers Chase Young and Montez Sweat. Both former first-round picks are scheduled to be free agents in 2024. The Commanders are already paying defensive linemen Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne so it wouldn't appear they're going to keep all four.

Like Denver, the Commanders are playing the best team in their conference this week. However they fare against the Eagles shouldn't determine their plans for Young and Sweat.

"The only thing I'm focused in on is getting ready for Philadelphia," Commanders coach Ron Rivera said. He can't say anything else, though.

Commanders defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio joked about being traded for a ham sandwich. Otherwise, he's not talking to his players about potentially being traded.

"Not a word about it really. Everything's about the Eagles. Everything's about staying together, playing hard, competing every day, improving," Del Rio said. □

Shiffrin named 'skier of the year' for the 3rd time

By ERIC WILLEMSSEN
Associated Press
SOELDEN, Austria (AP) — Mikaela Shiffrin was named "skier of the year" by the federation of ski journalists on Friday, with American great Bode Miller handing over the trophy.

Shiffrin, who set the record for most World Cup wins with 88 and won her fifth overall title last season, received the Skieur d'Or AIJS award for the third time. The American also won in 2017 and 2019.

"We know we only have the sport because you are

willing to tell the stories. As always, thanks for your time and the work you do," Shiffrin told the media after receiving the trophy.

Miller called Shiffrin "the best there's ever been, male or female" and praised her for "speaking from her heart and authentically."

Miller is former Olympic champion who won two overall World Cup titles. He won the skier of the year award in 2005 and retired from the sport 10 years later.

Men's overall champion

Marco Odermatt won the trophy last year.

"(Shiffrin and Odermatt) are great examples of fairness and class outside of the slopes and strongly contribute to the promotion of snow sports around the globe," AIJS president Patrick Lang said.

"The journalists greatly appreciate (Shiffrin's) interviews and the time she dedicates to them after her races.

To consider her as a role model in the ski world nearly is an understatement considering all her ideas,



United States' Mikaela Shiffrin, left, receives the Golden Skier award from US ski legend Bode Miller, ahead of the alpine ski season's opening races, in Soelden, Austria, Friday, Oct. 27, 2023.

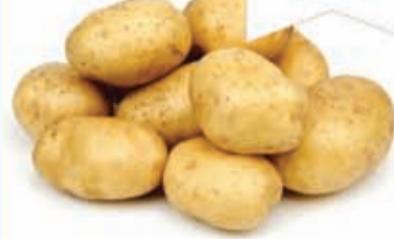
Associated Press

opinions or emotions she is sharing with them and the public in her social media activity."

Other Americans honored previously were Phil Mahre in 1983 and Lindsey Vonn in 2009. □

Weekly SPECIALS

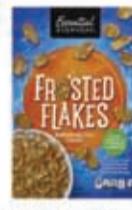


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